

CLAIMS

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Claim

1. A white balance correcting device for correcting white balance of a picked-up image, comprising:

mean value calculating means for dividing an image picking-up plane into a plurality of blocks and calculating a mean value of video signals obtained in each of the plurality of blocks;

peak value acquiring means for acquiring a peak value of video signals obtained in each of the plurality of blocks;

selection means for selecting one of the value obtained by said mean value calculating means and the value obtained by said peak value acquiring means; and

white balance control means for controlling white balance on the basis of the value selected by said selection means.

2. A white balance correcting device according to claim 1, wherein said selection means computes a ratio between a first integral value obtained by integrating mean values of video signals obtained in the plurality of blocks by said mean value calculating means and a second integral value obtained by integrating peak values of video signals obtained in the plurality of blocks by said peak value acquiring means, and, if the second integral value is not less than a predetermined number of times the first integral value, selects the value obtained by

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said peak value acquiring means, and, if the second integral value is less than the predetermined number of times the first integral value, selects the value obtained by said mean value calculating means.

3. A white balance correcting device according to claim 2, further comprising:

white determining means for determining whether values calculated by said mean value calculating means and values acquired by said peak value acquiring means exist within a white range,

wherein said selection means integrates only values which have been determined by said white determining means to exist within the white range, to obtain the first integral value and the second integral value.

4. A white balance correcting device according to claim 1, wherein said peak value acquiring means acquires peak values of video signals from signals that have beforehand been subjected to limitation for setting an upper limit to a signal level of an inputted video signal.

5. A white balance correcting device according to claim 1, wherein said peak value acquiring means acquires peak values of video signals from signals that have beforehand been subjected by a low-pass filter to

limitation for setting an upper limit to a signal level of an inputted video signal.

6. A white balance correcting device for correcting white balance of a picked-up image, comprising:

mean value calculating means for calculating a mean value of inputted video signals;

peak value acquiring means for acquiring a peak value of the inputted video signals;

selection means for selecting one of the value obtained by said mean value calculating means and the value obtained by said peak value acquiring means; and

white balance control means for controlling white balance on the basis of the value selected by said selection means.

7. A white balance correcting device according to claim 6, wherein said selection means computes a ratio between a mean value of video signals obtained by said mean value calculating means and a peak value of video signals obtained by said peak value acquiring means, and, if the peak value is not less than a predetermined number of times the mean value, selects the peak value, and, if the peak value is less than the predetermined number of times the mean value, selects the mean value.

8. A white balance correcting method for correcting white balance of a picked-up image, comprising:

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a mean value calculating step of dividing an image picking-up plane into a plurality of blocks and calculating a mean value of video signals obtained in each of the plurality of blocks;

a peak value acquiring step of acquiring a peak value of video signals obtained in each of the plurality of blocks;

a selection step of selecting one of the value obtained by said mean value calculating step and the value obtained by said peak value acquiring step; and

a white balance control step of controlling white balance on the basis of the value selected by said selection step.

9. A white balance correcting method according to claim 8, further comprising:

a computing step of computing a ratio between a first integral value obtained by integrating mean values of video signals obtained in the plurality of blocks by said mean value calculating step and a second integral value obtained by integrating peak values of video signals obtained in the plurality of blocks by said peak value acquiring step,

wherein, if the second integral value is not less than a predetermined number of times the first integral value, the value obtained by said peak value acquiring step is selected by said selection step, and, if the second integral value is less than the

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predetermined number of times the first integral value, the value obtained by said mean value calculating step is selected by said selection step.

10. A white balance correcting method according to claim 9, further comprising:

a white determining step of determining whether values calculated by said mean value calculating step and values acquired by said peak value acquiring step exist within a white range,

wherein only values which have been determined by said white determining step to exist within the white range are integrated by said selection step to obtain the first integral value and the second integral value.

11. A white balance correcting method according to claim 8, wherein peak values of video signals are acquired by said peak value acquiring step from signals that have beforehand been subjected to limitation for setting an upper limit to a signal level of an inputted video signal.

12. A white balance correcting method according to claim 8, wherein peak values of video signals are acquired by said peak value acquiring step from signals that have beforehand been subjected by a low-pass filter to limitation for setting an upper limit to a signal level of an inputted video signal.

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13. A white balance correcting method for  
correcting white balance of a picked-up image,  
comprising:

a mean value calculating step of calculating a  
mean value of inputted video signals;

a peak value acquiring step of acquiring a peak  
value of the inputted video signals;

a selection step of selecting one of the value  
obtained by said mean value calculating step and the  
value obtained by said peak value acquiring step; and

a white balance control step of controlling  
white balance on the basis of the value selected by said  
selection step.

14. A white balance correcting method according to  
claim 13, further comprising:

a computing step of computing a ratio between a  
mean value of video signals obtained by said mean value  
calculating step and a peak value of video signals  
obtained by said peak value acquiring step,

wherein, if the peak value is not less than a  
predetermined number of times the mean value, the peak  
value is selected by said selection step, and, if the  
peak value is less than the predetermined number of times  
the mean value, the mean value is selected by said  
selection step.

15. A storage medium which stores therein a program

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for executing a process for correcting white balance of a picked-up image, said process comprising:

dividing an image picking-up plane into a plurality of blocks;

calculating a mean value of video signals obtained in each of the plurality of blocks;

acquiring a peak value of video signals obtained in each of the plurality of blocks;

selecting one of the calculated mean value and the acquired peak value; and

controlling white balance on the basis of the selected one of the calculated mean value and the acquired peak value.

16. A storage medium according to claim 15, wherein said process further comprises computing a ratio between a first integral value obtained by integrating mean values of video signals obtained in the plurality of blocks and a second integral value obtained by integrating peak values of video signals obtained in the plurality of blocks, and

wherein, if the second integral value is not less than a predetermined number of times the first integral value, the acquired peak value is selected, and, if the second integral value is less than the predetermined number of times the first integral value, the calculated mean value is selected.

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17. A storage medium according to claim 16, wherein said process further comprises:

determining whether calculated mean values and acquired peak values exist within a white range,

wherein only values which have been determined to exist within the white range are integrated to obtain the first integral value and the second integral value.

18. A storage medium according to claim 15, wherein peak values of video signals are acquired from signals that have beforehand been subjected to limitation for setting an upper limit to a signal level of an inputted video signal.

19. A storage medium according to claim 15, wherein peak values of video signals are acquired from signals that have beforehand been subjected by a low-pass filter to limitation for setting an upper limit to a signal level of an inputted video signal.

20. A storage medium which stores therein a program for executing a process for correcting white balance of a picked-up image, said process comprising:

calculating a mean value of inputted video signals;

acquiring a peak value of the inputted video signals;

selecting one of the calculated mean value and

the acquired peak value; and

controlling white balance on the basis of the selected one of the calculated mean value and the acquired peak value.

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21. A storage medium according to claim 20, wherein said process further comprises computing a ratio between a mean value of video signals and a peak value of video signals, and

wherein, if the peak value is not less than a predetermined number of times the mean value, the acquired peak value is selected, and, if the peak value is less than the predetermined number of times the mean value, the calculated mean value is selected.

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